

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address May 11, 2018

Bolstering the American Economy

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

It has been a long time coming, but we have been hearing some good news about the economy. I thought I would take a moment to share some of the recent statistics.

Unemployment is at an 18-year low, now it is under 4 percent. Take-home pay is up, not enough, but it is up at 3.4 percent. Four million workers have received bonuses. In our country, there currently are over 6.5 million job openings. Aided by last year's tax reform, more Americans are working and more Americans are keeping more of their hard-earned money.

These are great benchmarks as we consider the strength of the American economy. At the same time, there is more to be done to make certain that any American in poverty has the chance to move to prosperity.

Now that we've reformed the tax code for the first time in 31 years, it's time that we take a look at other ways we can help American families thrive. In recent years, over 60 percent of federal spending was used for mandatory programs, including Medicaid, housing assistance, and unemployment benefits. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that spending on these programs will only increase over the next ten years. To help control spending, we must prioritize helping Americans get to work.

I am encouraged by the steady progress our economy is making, and I am hopeful that this trend will continue as a result of tax reform and our efforts to bolster American jobs.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.